

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7241
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
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AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 6777

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB ILO UN OAS AR
SUBR: MINISTER LIENDO DISCOURSE ON ILO
AND OAS
LABOR PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 209450

SUMMARY. LABOR MINISTER LIENDO PUBLICLY CALLED FOR CHANGES
IN THE ILO STRUCTURE, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ABSENCE
OF THE US FROM THE ILO AND DISCARDED THE POSSIBILITY OF
ERECTING AN INDEPENDENT LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL LABOR
ORGANIZATION. LIENDO'S REMARKS WERE MADE AT A LUNCHEON
MEETING OF LATIN AMERICAN LABOR MINISTERS WHICH HE CONVOKED
IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT OF THE ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL
TO BUENOS AIRES. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, LABOR MINISTER (BRIG.GEN.
HORACIO TOMAS LIENDO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN A
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LUNCHEON SPEECH WHICH HE HOSTED AUGUST LOV IN HONOR OF
VISITING ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL FRANCIS BLANCHARD AT WHICH
THE LABOR MINISTERS OF BOLIVIA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY, THE
SUBSECRETARY (OR DIRECTOR) OF LABOR OF PARAGUAY WERE PRESENT
IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADORS OF CHILE, BRAZIL, PERU
AND URUGUAY:
-- US RETURN TO THE ILO IS A NECESSITY NOT ONLY BE-

CAUSE IT IS A TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY COUNTRY, BUT ALSO
TO MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY AS WELL
AS THE EQUILIBRIUM OF THE ILO;
-- US RETURN IS CONNECTED TO THE ISSUE OF STRUCTURE,
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF APPLICATION
OF CONVENTIONS AND PRINCIPLES AND ALL THE OTHER QUESTIONS
CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED IN THE ILO;
-- REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE OF APPLICATION OF
CONVENTIONS AND PRINCIPLES SHOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED
FOR A VOTE AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WHICH SHOULD
LIMIT ITSELF TO MERELY TAKING NOTE OF THE REPORTS
APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE;
-- ADJUSTMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE ILO STRUCTURE
TO BRING ABOUT A MORE JUST DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS
IN THE GOVERNING BODY AND TO REFLECT CONTEMPORARY
REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY INTERNATIONAL POLITICO-
ECONOMIC FACTORS;
-- ALL OF THESE ARE SUBJECTS WHICH SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED AT THE FORTHCOMING INTER-AMERICAN LABOR
MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN LIMA;
-- ADEQUATE RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEM IS NECESSARY
TO DISPEL DISQUIETING CONJECTURE THAT HAS BEEN HEARD
WITH RESPECT TO A PROPOSAL FOR CREATING A REGIONAL
LABOR BODY INDEPENDENT OF THE ILO. THAT POSSIBILITY
HAS ALREADY BEEN DISMISSED EVEN THOUGH THE QUESTION IS
STILL BEFORE THE OAS; HENCE SOCIAL AND LABOR QUESTIONS
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REQUIRE THE REVITALIZATION OF THE RESPECTIVE
INSTRUMENTS WHICH SHOULD ONLY BE DONE IN THE EXCLUSIVE
JURISDICTION OF THE ILO AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
AN ILO LABOR POLICY WHICH IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE
NATIONAL POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES.

2. THE MORNING DAILY CLARIN, EVIDENTLY INSPIRED BY
LABOR MINISTRY SOURCES, CALLED THE GATHERING A MINI-
SUMMIT OF LATIN AMERICAN LABOR MINISTERS PREPARATORY
TO THE LIMA CONFERENCE. CLARIN SAW LIENDO'S CALL
FOR STRUCTURAL REFORM AS A PLEA FOR GIVING ILO MEMBER
STATES A GREATER ROLE IN THE ELABORATION OF ILO
PROGRAMS AND FOR DEMOCRATIZING THE DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS IN THE ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO
CLARIN, ARGENTINA WISHES TO STRENGTHEN THE
ROLE OF MEMBERS OF THE ILO GOVERNING BODY
(IN WHICH ARGENTINA ENJOYS TWO ALTERNATE SEATS) AND
TO NEUTRALIZE THE STERILE CONFRONTATIONS OF
TRADICIONAL POLITICAL BLOCS. CLARIN SEES LIENDO'S
INITIATIVE AS AN ATTEMPT TO SOLIDIFY THE LATIN
AMERICAN BLOC AGAINST "THE IMPOSITION OF THE
CREATION OF A CONTINENTAL LABOR BODY WHICH

CERTAINLY IS GOING TO BE LAUNCHED IN LIMA." IF
THE ORIGINAL OAS PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED, REASONS
CLARIN, THE RETURN OF THE US TO THE ILO COULD
BE DEFINITELY POSTPONED -- SOMETHING THAT ""IS
NOT DESIRED BY ANYBODY, AS WAS DEMONSTRATED IN
THIS MINI-SUMMIT ORGANIZED BY ARGENTINA."

3. BLANCHARD
IS IN ARGENTINA IN CONNECTION WITH
THE OPENING OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE.

4. TAYEB LABDIRI, REPORTED CHIEF OF THE ARAB
REGIONAL LABOR BODY, IS ALSO IN BUENOS
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ATTENDING THE UNCONFERENCE.

5. A LA OPINION WRITER NOTED THAT LIENDO'S INITIATIVE
IS RESULTING IN A STRENGTHENING IN RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN BLANCHARD AND THE LATIN AMERICAN BLOC,
WHICH DID NOT SUPPORT HIS NOMINATION FOUR YEARS
AGO.
CASTRO

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